

RESTRICTED

28 March 1946

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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C.I.G. DIRECTIVE

SURVEY OF COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS
IN THE UNITED STATES

Memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence, with the
unanimous concurrence of the Intelligence Advisory Board

1. By memorandum of 20 February 1946, Mr. McCormack (Special Assistant to the Secretary of State in charge of Research and Intelligence)* suggested that the Director of Central Intelligence take under advisement the matter of determining what coverage of the Foreign Language Press in the United States is desirable for intelligence purposes and how the coverage should be obtained. This matter falls logically under the provisions of paragraph 4 b, N.I.A. Directive No. 2. The following paragraphs outline the provisions which will govern this survey.

2. The survey will include an examination of all facilities for covering the Foreign Language Press in the United States in order to determine:

- a. The extent of coverage by existing facilities;
- b. The adequacy of the existing coverage;
- c. The extent of duplication of effort in the current coverage;
- d. The availability of trained, competent personnel;
- e. The suitability of the present material produced by existing facilities;
- f. The suitability of present dissemination of material processed by existing facilities.

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* See Enclosure

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3. The survey will include, finally, an examination of the question as to whether the desired end will be served better if the effort be distributed, or if it be centralized; and if centralized, what agency of the Government should be charged with it.

4. The Central Planning Staff, C.I.G., will conduct the survey. It will be authorized to call for personnel indicated in paragraph 5, below, to appear and give such oral or written reports as may be required for purposes of this survey.

5. Each member of the Intelligence Advisory Board will designate a representative to arrange details with the Information Branch, Central Planning Staff, and to furnish the C.I.G. a list of personnel authorized to give information for purposes of the survey. The designation of appropriate contact personnel in other Federal agencies will be arranged for as necessary.

6. The Central Planning Staff will submit its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Director of Central Intelligence. He will then submit appropriate recommendations to the National Intelligence Authority, after concurrence or comment by the Intelligence Advisory Board.

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CIG Director Approved For Release 2002/11/20 : CIA-RDP81-00728R000100060010-7

E N C L O S U R E

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL SOUERS

SUBJECT: Intelligence from Foreign Language Press in the
United States.

1. There are more than 1,000 foreign language newspapers and magazines in the United States. They serve a large minority of the population, since according to the 1940 census there were then 11,500,000 persons of foreign birth and some 23,000,000 of foreign parentage in this country, and 22,000,000 persons reported some language other than English as their mother tongue.
2. The foreign language papers in this country are an important source of both foreign and domestic intelligence. They receive information from correspondents abroad and by mail from individuals abroad, and from foreign personalities who come to this country. They frequently carry information not available in the English language press. They are particularly a source of information about personalities and political movements in foreign countries in advance of the time when such policies and movements attract enough attention to get into the English language press or into other usual sources of information.
3. The foreign language papers reflect political attitudes and controversies in foreign countries, especially the attitudes of opposition groups, who sometimes have their principal base and their principal medium of expression in the United States.
4. Attitudes of foreign language groups in the United States have to be taken into account in the conduct of foreign relations, in that powerful minorities in the United States can influence public opinion and thereby limit the freedom of the government in dealing with foreign problems. Foreign issues are sometimes matters of violent agitation in this country, as witness the steady stream of pro-Soviet and anti-Soviet propaganda that is carried on by Polish, Lithuanian, Slovakian, Rumanian, Hungarian, Croatian and Serb newspapers in this country.
5. In the conduct of our information program for foreign countries, it is important to know the issues that are being debated in the corresponding foreign language press in this country.
6. Just prior to and during the war various government agencies concerned themselves with the foreign language press. The Department of Justice had a unit which read the publications from primarily the security standpoint. The counter-intelligence units of the Armed Forces did something along the same line. But the only attempt at comprehensive coverage

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(not, however, including Asiatic language papers) was the work of the Foreign Nationalities Branch of OSS, which began in 1941. In addition to reading and reporting upon the European foreign language papers of European and Near East nationality groups in this country, it also maintained contact with foreign individuals in the United States and with the leaders of foreign nationality groups and movements here.

7. The annual budget of the Foreign Nationalities Branch, which was located in New York City, ran from \$250,000 to \$300,000, of which \$1,000 per month was paid to the Overseas News Agency for a reading and translating service. By the fall of 1945, when the Foreign Nationalities Branch passed into the Interim Research and Intelligence Service in the State Department, most of the actual reading of the foreign language papers was done by Overseas News Agency, and the staff of the Branch spent its time writing reports based upon those readings and keeping in touch with foreign language personalities.

8. Shortly after the Interim Research and Intelligence Service was set up, the Foreign Nationalities Branch had to be liquidated for lack of funds.

9. A number of people in various Departments of the Government, as well as some private individuals, have either written or come to see me, urging that coverage of the foreign language press be resumed. The Coordinating Committee of the Department of State has been studying the problem recently, from the angle of the Office of International and Cultural Affairs, which conducts the short-wave broadcasting to foreign countries. The Army and Navy have an interest in this matter from the standpoint of domestic intelligence, and they and the State Department are interested in it as a source of foreign intelligence.

10. It is believed that the matter deserves the attention of the National Intelligence Authority, and it is therefore suggested that the Director of Central Intelligence take the matter under advisement with a view to recommending:

a. What coverage of the foreign language press in the United States it is desirable to maintain for intelligence purposes?

b. By what means can such coverage best be obtained? and

c. What agency or agencies can best do the job, and, if more than one agency can participate, how should the work be divided between them?

/s/
Alfred McCormack
Special Assistant
to the Secretary

cc: General Vandenberg
Admiral Inglis
General McDonald

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CIG Directive ☐

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Enclosure

RESTRICTED

28 March 1946

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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C.I.G. DIRECTIVE

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* See Enclosure

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CIG Directive ☐

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E N C L O S U R E

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WASHINGTON

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CIG Directive ☐

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/s/
Alfred McCormack
Special Assistant
to the Secretary

cc: General Vandenberg
Admiral Inglis
General McDonald

CIG Directive ☐

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Enclosure

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28 March 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Amory Bradford, State
Capt. Eric Waldman, G-2
Capt. A. C. J. Sabalot, ONI
Lt. Col. George D. Garrett, Jr., A-2

SUBJECT: Survey of Coverage of the Foreign
Language Press in the United States

ENCLOSURE: C.I.G. Directive ☐ - RESTRICTED

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1. The Central Planning Staff, C.I.G., has been charged with the conduct of the survey directed in the enclosure.
2. Addressees of this memorandum have been designated by their respective chiefs of departmental intelligence to assist the Central Planning Staff as set forth in paragraph 5 of the enclosure.
3. A representative of the Central Planning Staff will shortly establish contact with addressees in this connection.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Secretary, N.I.A.

Information copies:
Mr. McCormack
Gen. Vandenberg
Adm. Inglis
Gen. McDonald
Acting Chief, CPS

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28 March 1946

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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C.I.G. DIRECTIVE

SURVEY OF COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS
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CIG Director For Release 2002/11/20 : CIA-RDP81-00728R000100060010-7

E N C L O S U R E

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1946

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Alfred McCormack
Special Assistant
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CIG Directive ☐

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Enclosure

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28 March 1946

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
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C.I.G. DIRECTIVE SURVEY OF COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS
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ENCLOSURE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1946

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Alfred McCormack
Special Assistant
to the Secretary

cc: General Vandenberg
Admiral Inglis
General McDonald

28 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McCORMACK

SUBJECT: Intelligence from Foreign Language
Press in the United States.

Your memorandum of 20 February, above subject, has been received and referred to the Central Planning Staff for necessary action. I agree with you that C.I.G. should take the matter under advisement. A survey of the subject will be initiated in the near future.

SIDNEY W. SOUERS
Director



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON, D. C.

27 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY, N.I.A.

SUBJECT: Intelligence from Foreign Language Press in the United States

1. The Planning Staff has retained a copy of inclosed memorandum for file. The problem presented is not urgent. The Planning Staff will initiate a survey as soon as the Information Branch is sufficiently organized to undertake it.

2. Recommend a memorandum of acknowledgment be prepared for Admiral Souer's signature, reading substantially as follows:

"Your memorandum of 20 February, above subject, has been received and referred to the Central Planning Staff for necessary action. I agree with you that C.I.G. should take the matter under advisement. A survey of the subject will be initiated in the near future."



Captain, JVS
Acting Chief, Central Planning Staff

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Enclosure:

Memo from Mr. McCormack,
State Dept., to Admiral
Sours - Subject: Intelligence from Foreign Language
Press in the United States

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



February 20, 1946

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Enclosure "B"

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Enclosure "B"

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~~for~~

Enclosure "B"

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28 March 1946

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

C.I.G. DIRECTIVE

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SURVEY OF COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS
IN THE UNITED STATES

Memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence, with the
unanimous concurrence of the Intelligence Advisory Board

1. By memorandum of 20 February 1946, Mr. McCormack (Special Assistant to the Secretary of State in charge of Research and Intelligence)* suggested that the Director of Central Intelligence take under advisement the matter of determining what coverage of the Foreign Language Press in the United States is desirable for intelligence purposes and how the coverage should be obtained. This matter falls logically under the provisions of paragraph 4 b, N.I.A. Directive No. 2. The following paragraphs outline the provisions which will govern this survey.

2. The survey will include an examination of all facilities for covering the Foreign Language Press in the United States in order to determine:

- a. The extent of coverage by existing facilities;
- b. The adequacy of the existing coverage;
- c. The extent of duplication of effort in the current coverage;
- d. The availability of trained, competent personnel;
- e. The suitability of the present material produced by existing facilities;
- f. The suitability of present dissemination of material processed by existing facilities.

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* See Enclosure

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3. The survey will include, finally, an examination of the question as to whether the desired end will be served better if the effort be distributed, or if it be centralized; and if centralized, what agency of the Government should be charged with it.

4. The Central Planning Staff, C.I.G., will conduct the survey. It will be authorized to call for personnel indicated in paragraph 5, below, to appear and give such oral or written reports as may be required for purposes of this survey.

5. Each member of the Intelligence Advisory Board will designate a representative to arrange details with the Information Branch, Central Planning Staff, and to furnish the C.I.G. a list of personnel authorized to give information for purposes of the survey. The designation of appropriate contact personnel in other Federal agencies will be arranged for as necessary.

6. The Central Planning Staff will submit its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Director of Central Intelligence. He will then submit appropriate recommendations to the National Intelligence Authority, after concurrence or comment by the Intelligence Advisory Board.

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E N C L O S U R E

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL SOUERS

SUBJECT: Intelligence from Foreign Language Press in the
United States.

1. There are more than 1,000 foreign language newspapers and magazines in the United States. They serve a large minority of the population, since according to the 1940 census there were then 11,500,000 persons of foreign birth and some 23,000,000 of foreign parentage in this country, and 22,000,000 persons reported some language other than English as their mother tongue.

2. The foreign language papers in this country are an important source of both foreign and domestic intelligence. They receive information from correspondents abroad and by mail from individuals abroad, and from foreign personalities who come to this country. They frequently carry information not available in the English language press. They are particularly a source of information about personalities and political movements in foreign countries in advance of the time when such policies and movements attract enough attention to get into the English language press or into other usual sources of information.

3. The foreign language papers reflect political attitudes and controversies in foreign countries, especially the attitudes of opposition groups, who sometimes have their principal base and their principal medium of expression in the United States.

4. Attitudes of foreign language groups in the United States have to be taken into account in the conduct of foreign relations, in that powerful minorities in the United States can influence public opinion and thereby limit the freedom of the government in dealing with foreign problems. Foreign issues are sometimes matters of violent agitation in this country, as witness the steady stream of pro-Soviet and anti-Soviet propaganda that is carried on by Polish, Lithuanian, Slovakian, Rumanian, Hungarian, Croatian and Serb newspapers in this country.

5. In the conduct of our information program for foreign countries, it is important to know the issues that are being debated in the corresponding foreign language press in this country.

6. Just prior to and during the war various government agencies concerned themselves with the foreign language press. The Department of Justice had a unit which read the publications from primarily the security standpoint. The counter-intelligence units of the Armed Forces did something along the same line. But the only attempt at comprehensive coverage

(not, however, including Asiatic language papers) was the work of the Foreign Nationalities Branch of OSS, which began in 1941. In addition to reading and reporting upon the European foreign language papers of European and Near East nationality groups in this country, it also maintained contact with foreign individuals in the United States and with the leaders of foreign nationality groups and movements here.

7. The annual budget of the Foreign Nationalities Branch, which was located in New York City, ran from \$250,000 to \$300,000, of which \$1,000 per month was paid to the Overseas News Agency for a reading and translating service. By the fall of 1945, when the Foreign Nationalities Branch passed into the Interim Research and Intelligence Service in the State Department, most of the actual reading of the foreign language papers was done by Overseas News Agency, and the staff of the Branch spent its time writing reports based upon those readings and keeping in touch with foreign language personalities.

8. Shortly after the Interim Research and Intelligence Service was set up, the Foreign Nationalities Branch had to be liquidated for lack of funds.

9. A number of people in various Departments of the Government, as well as some private individuals, have either written or come to see me, urging that coverage of the foreign language press be resumed. The Coordinating Committee of the Department of State has been studying the problem recently, from the angle of the Office of International and Cultural Affairs, which conducts the short-wave broadcasting to foreign countries. The Army and Navy have an interest in this matter from the standpoint of domestic intelligence, and they and the State Department are interested in it as a source of foreign intelligence.

10. It is believed that the matter deserves the attention of the National Intelligence Authority, and it is therefore suggested that the Director of Central Intelligence take the matter under advisement with a view to recommending:

a. What coverage of the foreign language press in the United States it is desirable to maintain for intelligence purposes?

b. By what means can such coverage best be obtained?

c. What agency or agencies can best do the job, and, if more than one agency can participate, how should the work be divided between them?

/s/
Alfred McCormack
Special Assistant
to the Secretary

cc: General Vandenberg
Admiral Inglis
General McDonald

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Enclosure